

The Ames Intelligencer

Issue 4 of 4 ■ Ames Heritage Association Newsletter ■ Sept. 2001

■ The Ames Intelligencer was the first newspaper in the city of Ames ■

One Door Closes...



Ames Heritage Association gratefully thanks Robert D. Cody, Ames, for his support of our activities through the offer of space at 108 Fifth Street in Ames.

Future Exhibit Plans

- ❖ present exhibit of recently acquired artifacts in the front windows of 108 Fifth, viewable from the street
- ❖ present exhibits several times a year in other locations (possibly public library, Octagon, ISU Community Credit Union, ACTORS Studio)
- ❖ "take show on the road" – present history-based programs to groups on regular basis

Another Opens!



Boys & Girls Club, 4H Help Move

Boys & Girls Club members assisted AHA with the move into 108 Fifth on a hot day in early July.



In April, the Ames Heritage Board made the sad announcement that the "demonstration" museum the Association opened in 1999 at 417 Douglas would close.

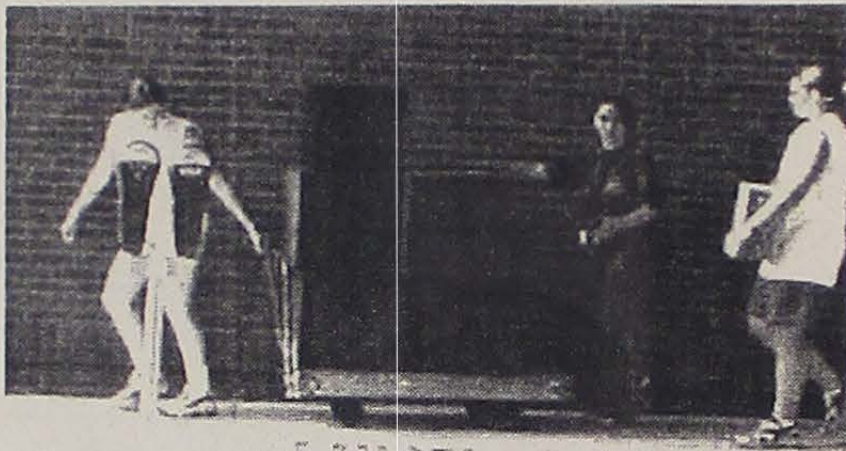
Within a week of The Tribune's story about the closing, AHA received an offer of a newly renovated downtown space at very low rent - an offer we have accepted!

This space at 108 Fifth will allow AHA to consolidate administrative and collections activities in a visible storefront location. With additional memberships and assistance from the City that started July 1, AHA feels confident that resources and energies will be rebuilt and the presentation of exhibits and programs can begin once again. AHA seeks members interested in participating.





During the annual 4H conference at Iowa State in late June, about twenty-five club members donated their time to move AHA materials to 108 Fifth. Their energy and positive attitude made short work of an arduous job!



News ■ News ■ News ■ News

Hoggatt School Open By Appointment Until Oct. 31

Hoggatt School open hours on Saturday and Sunday afternoons in June, July and August allowed a number of visitors to enjoy local history. Hosts were especially pleased by a visit from the original donor who made the little structure available to AHA for restoration.

From September 1 to October 31, the school is open by appointment for group visitation. Many classroom teachers take advantage of the visiting the school to enhance their lessons. The one-room log school is located at 18th and Burnett on the grounds of Meeker School. Call Carole Jensen at 233-2431.

Washburn, Wisconsin – A Model for Ames!

A Museum to Visit

By Leo Lawler, AHA Board Member

This past summer I made a trip to Washburn, Wisconsin for the purpose of gathering information about the Washburn Historical Museum & Cultural Arts Center. Having discovered this excellent museum a few years ago quite by accident, I was eager to learn more about how it was established.

This brief history is borrowed from their printed materials:

"A boom town from 1880 to the 1920's, Washburn, Wisconsin has a rich and lively history. Its beginnings were strongly linked to the timber industry, primarily providing lumber to rebuild Chicago after the great fire.

In 1905, as the timber supply was waning. The DuPont Corporation established a dynamite plant, which played an important role in defining the city's character.

Situated on the shores of Lake Superior, it was a closer port than Chicago or Duluth for moving many types of goods to the east. Lumber, grain, iron ore, brownstone and even passengers were transported via Washburn's waterways.

The Washburn Historical Museum and Cultural Arts center preserves the stories and scenes of their rich past inside a magnificent brownstone structure known to many as the "Old Bank Building". Built in 1890, this grand building is listed on both the State and National Register of Historic Places. It has the stature and tradition to be a historical exhibit all on its own, and what a truly fitting location it is for the Washburn Historical Museum!

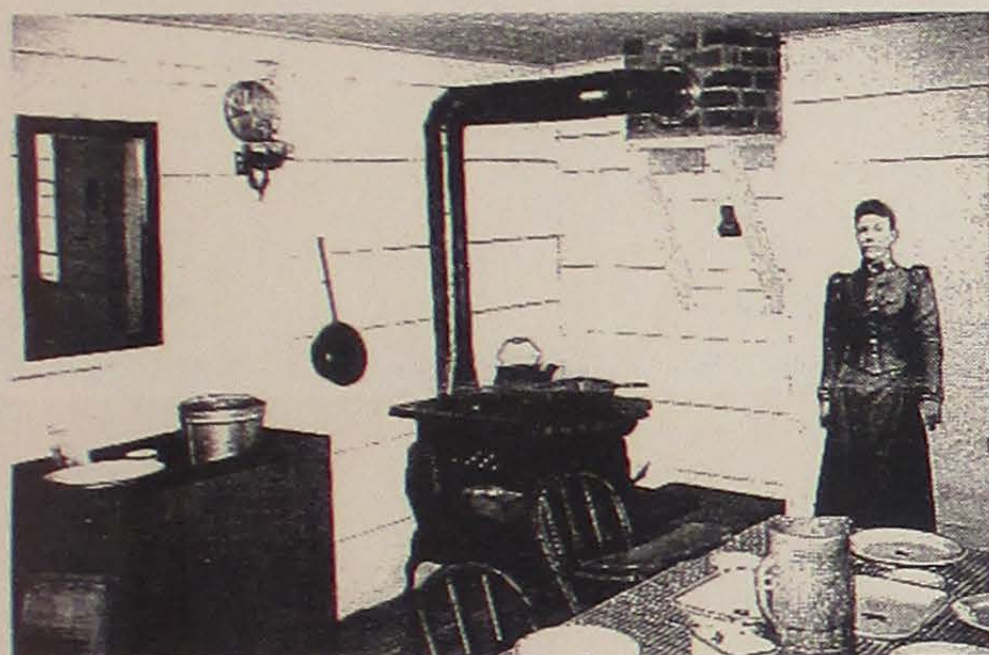


Restoration of the facility was started in late 1991 and a grand opening celebration was held in 1993. As was hoped, the museum has proven to be a focal point of a proud Washburn community as well as a destination for national tourism."

As we, in Ames, Iowa, plan for a permanent location for our own historical museum, much of the above description about Washburn, Wisconsin can be imagined for our own historic 1900 Depot that patiently waits to be adopted.

Washburn had its central "benefactor" who provided their building. Ames is a prime candidate for the same kind of generosity and community spirit. Persons interested in investigating possibilities for the Depot are encouraged to contact AHA.

Bauge Open Hours Attract Many Visitors



Open hours for the Bauge family log home will continue through September on Sunday afternoons from 1-4 p.m., and possibly into October if weather permits. The number of visitors has grown each Sunday and interest in the log house and its story and that of the Bauges and area Norwegian immigrants is also growing.

The log home is restored to the 1890 - 1910 period and the furnishings of that period that fill the house give visitors a realistic glimpse of life 100 years ago. AHA has received several new additions to its collection of household objects and more are promised.

As with any house museum, there are items we would very much like to have. If you have an interest in donating, please call the museum at 232-2148 or Rollie and Willie Struss at 232-0865. We would appreciate your interest!

The Bauge Log Home is located at McFarland Park north and east of Ames off Dayton Avenue. The home is a pleasant walk or the Story County Conservation Center makes a shuttle van available to visitors.

Sons of Norway Grant Project Now Complete

The Sons of Norway Foundation grant-funded project is now complete. AHA hired ISU student intern, Colleen White, to research and write a series of stories or scripts to be used by log home hosts. The stories are short vignettes on a variety of subjects that give visitors a feeling for life in a log Iowa farmstead in the 1800's.

Here are three of Colleen's stories.

Agriculture

Farming in Iowa between 1890 and 1910 was considered the "Golden Age of Agriculture". In 1897, the Maxwell Tribune count included 173 farm operators in Palestine Township, the area of Story County where the Bauges lived. Although the Bauge farm was omitted from this census, they were a typical farm for that time and place.

Typical crops for that time include corn and oats. Most farms' livestock included cows, poultry, horses, and hogs. It was rare to grow wheat or raise sheep in this area. Most farms were about 50-100 acres, though some grew to 500 acres.

The Bauge family, headed by Lars, also operated a sorghum mill. Sorghum is a molasses-like sweetener with East Asian origins. The Bauge's sorghum plot yielded about 20 gallons a harvest, after being processed. The Bauge's mill served to process their own sorghum as well as the neighbors. Sharing services was common, and local creameries and grain mills would also have been utilized.

Living in Rural Iowa

The population of Story County in 1910, where the Bauge family lived north of Huxley, was 24,083. Iowa itself had only about 2.2 million inhabitants. Living in rural Iowa around the turn of the century was tough, but new comforts were increasing the quality of life. Mail service began to reach those who lived outside of cities and towns, providing free service to farm families. Phone service was also something new that connected rural dwellers to others. The Bauges had a phone, and some of the children still remember their family's distinctive ring. They had no indoor plumbing for as long as they inhabited the house, which was until 1956.

There were social events and clubs to belong to that brought rural communities together. Anna Bauge belonged to Ladies' Aid at the nearby church in Palestine, a Lutheran women's social club. There were annual celebrations like the Fourth of July festivities in Cambridge. Another holiday that was celebrated throughout the community was Christmas. Many other settlers in Iowa were Norwegian, and Norwegian Christmas traditions were practiced by many of the community.



Kitchen

This lean-to, which houses the kitchen and a second bedroom, was added to the house in 1890. The addition increased the size of the house to 24 by 26 feet. This was also the informal entrance to the house, used by the family more often than the front entrance. The oldest girls still at home probably used the much-needed second bedroom.

During the house's move in 1988, the lean-to had to be removed by chainsaws. As you can see, it was later reattached and renovated. The doorjamb leading into the living room shows the inner construction of the walls that were once the exterior. Also, a piece of the original beaded board ceiling is still here, in the trap door in the ceiling near the second bedroom.

The pantry under the stairs housed the family's dry goods and other cooking necessities. Some of the Bauge children remember molasses jars everywhere, probably leftover from the sorghum processing at the family's mill. Other memories are red geraniums and fever few potted in the windows, and well-kept lawn and garden surrounding the house.

Lars and his wife, Anna Bauge, who was also born in Norway, never forgot their heritage. Their children remember speaking Norwegian at home until it was gradually phased out. One of their favorite meals was a Norwegian potato dumpling called kumla. The surrounding communities were also rich with Scandinavian immigrants, and traditional celebrations at holidays were always very popular.



Bauge home pantry.

Clip & Return Renewal Form

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

| | | | |
|------------|------|------------|---------|
| Individual | \$25 | Sustaining | \$100 |
| Family | \$40 | Benefactor | \$500 |
| Friend | \$50 | Patron | \$1,000 |

Send to: Ames Heritage Assn., PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010

Ames Heritage Association Board: President - Kathy Svec; Vice-President - Carole Jensen; Secretary - Willie Struss; Treasurer - Peggy Baer; Suann Evans, Letitia Hansen, Bill LaGrange, Leo Lawler, Liz Manion, Nick Howell, Rollie Struss, Dennis Wendell. The Board meets monthly.

Ames Heritage Association is a legally incorporated, not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting interest in state and local history through the operation of three historic sites as well as publications, programs and exhibitions. Phone: 515-232-2148.

The Intelligencer newsletter is named after an early Ames newspaper. It is published three to four times a year for Association members. Direct comments & questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010.

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School, near 18th and Burnett, Ames, IA. Open April through October.

The Bauge Log Home is east and north of the lake at McFarland Park, which is ½ mile east of Dayton Road at 56461 180th Street. Open Sundays 1-4pm or by appointment during good weather months.

Ames Intelligencer

Ames Heritage Association

PO Box 821

Ames, Iowa 50010

Non-Profit

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City of Ames
State of Iowa through
HRDP-REAP (Historic
Resource Development
Program)
Sons of Norway
Foundation

* Denotes new member

Member records as of
September 6, 2001

*We deeply regret any errors.
If you have a question on your
membership status, please call
Willie Struss at
232-0865, or email
willie@qwest.net*